



WOUNDED WARRIOR

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2015 Edition, Issue 2 - February 2015

AFW2 program provides hope

□ Just because the wounds didn't occur in a combat zone, it doesn't mean the wounded Airman isn't worthy of a helping hand

*By Senior Airman Keith James
3rd Combat Camera Squadron*

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas
Some Airmen dream of a 20-year career. Some know they'll serve one enlistment and then separate. But some have that decision taken right out of their hands.

Retired Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Harper met a major career obstacle in 2011. Harper served in the Air Force Reserve as a loadmaster for the 89th Airlift Squadron, 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, from 2008 through 2014.

The Ohio native survived an ultra-light trike crash Aug. 31, 2011. He suffered a multitude of injuries including a blown out right ankle, a compound fracture in his right leg, broken knee, a shattered pelvis, a fracture of his sacrum and a traumatic brain injury.

"I have no memory of the

crash," said Harper. "When I woke up in the hospital and the doctors revealed to me what happened, I was relieved to still be alive."

On active-duty orders at the time of the crash, Harper had to be rescued and flown to a hospital in Columbus, Ohio, where he had to be resuscitated four times. His then fiancée, now wife, Joanie, was told Harper had sustained only a broken ankle, unaware until arriving at the hospital her future husband was in critical care.

"When I was released from the hospital Joanie took care of me," Harper said. "She moved a hospital bed into her room and cared for me until I could walk again."

Surviving and on the road to recovery, Harper began to finally walk and drive again in February 2012. A firefighter for over 15 years when not wearing the Air Force uniform, he was informed by his medical caretakers it was time to hang up his boots.

Harper was informed about the Air Force Wounded Warrior program while going

[Read More](#)

Send your comments, feedback

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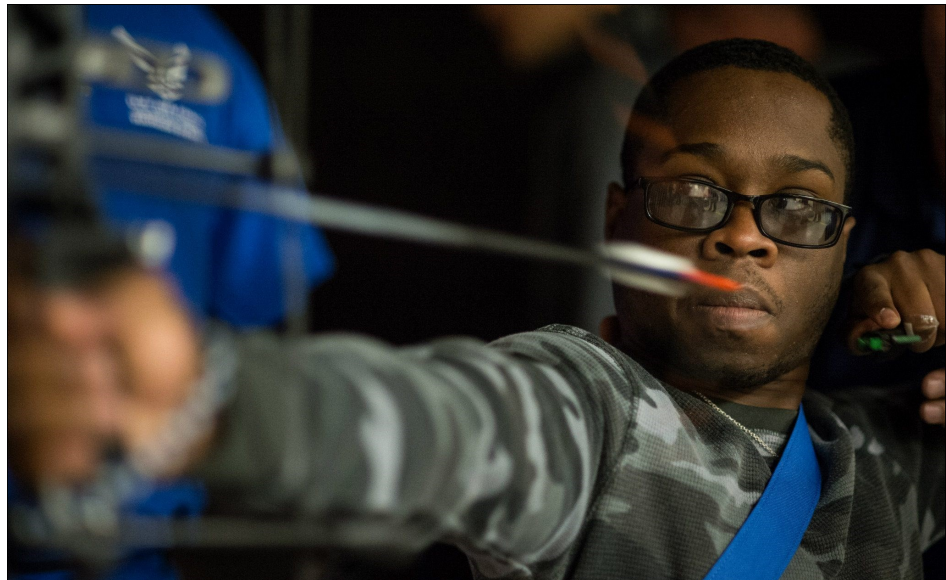
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AFW2 Adaptive Sports and Reconditioning Camp

Recovering Airmen participate in track and field exercises Jan 20 during the Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports and Reconditioning Camp at Randolph High School on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. More than 80 recovering Airmen from around the nation participated in the weeklong event here Jan. 19-23. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Keith James)

Retired Senior Airman Ryan Cureton takes aim during archery drills Jan. 21 at the Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports and Reconditioning Camp on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Along with the sporting events, a career readiness and employment fair, and wounded warrior caregiver education sessions took place. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jordan Castelan)



Tech. Sgt. Jason Caswell (left) and retired Staff Sgt. Daniel Crane practice yoga Jan. 21 during the Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports and Reconditioning Camp on Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. For many of the competitors, this is the first training event before participating in the 2015 Air Force Trials followed by the Warrior Games in mid-2015. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Sarayuth Pinthong)

Click [here](#) to see more photos.

V-E-C could lead to J-O-B for Y-O-U

The Veterans Employment Center is the federal government's single online tool for connecting transitioning active-duty service members, veterans and their families to meaningful career opportunities in the public and private sectors.

This government-wide project brings together a reputable cadre of employers with real job opportunities, and provides customers and their families with the tools to translate military skills into plain language and build a profile that can be shared – in real time – with employers who have made a public commitment to hire veterans.

As a job seeker, you have access to the following resources:

- **Skills Translator:** Translates military occupational codes into civilian skill equivalents for a powerful public profile and résumé; and learn about related civilian career paths.

- **Profile and Résumé Builder:** Seamlessly import results from the skills translator into an online profile that you can save for future use, publish for employers to search, or download to help develop a résumé in any format. Publishing your profile on the VEC instantly connects you to thousands of employers looking to hire veterans, transitioning service members, reserve component service members and family members.

- **Veterans Job Bank:** This job bank allows you to search more than 1.5 million jobs -- including federal, state, local government and private sector jobs. In fact, some employers are specifically recruiting transitioning active-duty service members, reservists and veterans through the bank.

- **Employer Commitments:** View a list of hundreds of employers and organizations that



(Courtesy image)

have made a commitment to hire or train individuals like yourself, and then link directly to their site to get more information, start the conversation and apply for jobs.

- **Other Resources:** The VEC contains or links to a broad set of other informational resources designed to help you find meaningful career opportunities and take advantage of special government and partner programs, such as the new Department of Defense SkillBridge pilot program to promote civilian job training for transitioning service members.

The VEC was created in collaboration with the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Defense and Education, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of Personnel Management. It can be found at www.ebenefits.va.gov/jobs.

For a tutorial video on how to use the employment center, click [here](#). (Courtesy of White House fact sheet)

Small increase to TRICARE pharmacy copays

FALLS CHURCH, Va. -- New copayments for prescription drugs covered by TRICARE will go into effect Feb. 1 because the fiscal 2015 National Defense Authorization Act requires TRICARE to increase most pharmacy copays by \$3.

Drugs from military pharmacies and generic drugs from TRICARE Pharmacy Home



Delivery still cost beneficiaries nothing.

TRICARE pharmacy copays vary based on the class of drug

and where beneficiaries choose to fill their prescriptions. Home delivery copays for formulary brand name drugs are going from \$13 to \$16, and for non-formulary from \$43 to \$46.

People can get up to a 90-day supply of drugs through home delivery.

At the retail pharmacy network, copays for generic

[Read More](#)

Services and Resources

The [Military Caregiver PEER \(Personalized Experiences, Engagement, and Resources\) Forums](#) use military family life counselors to organize and conduct events that provide nonmedical counseling opportunities for military caregivers. At these forums, attendees discuss topics they would like to focus on, such as managing stress, nutrition, financial wellness, and employment, among other topics. The forums aim to reduce stress, provide emotional support, and be a resource for valuable information through guided discussion among military caregivers, allowing them to share practical, accurate, and thorough information based on their personal experiences. Several military caregiver "PEER 2 PEER" forums take place each month at various locations throughout the country. For a listing of forum locations, times and dates, click [here](#).



Troubled troops, veterans and family members have a round-the-clock, free resource for locating the help they need to deal with psychological health problems and traumatic brain injury. The [24/7 Outreach Center](#) is part of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, or DCoE. The center is always staffed with trained, professional health-resource consultants. Call 866-966-1020.

Assistance fund campaign kicks off in February

by Debbie Gildea
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – The annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off Feb. 2 at 78 Air Force and joint bases worldwide, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

The campaign, in its 42nd year, will be conducted for six-week periods through May 1, said Bill D'Avanzo, Air Force voting action officer and fundraising chief. Most Air Force bases will begin and end their campaigns during one of three designated periods:

Feb. 2-March 13, 2015
March 2-April 10, 2015
March 23-May 1, 2015

Air Force retirees can donate at any time throughout the year.

"For more than four decades, the Air Force Assistance Fund has been used to help Airmen, whether affected by natural disasters, experiencing personal hardship, recovering from injury or illness or making difficult life choices due to age and other circumstances," said D'Avanzo. "We are family, and the fund exists to help our family members get through difficult times."

Contributions, which are tax deductible, go to

support four different charities:

- The Air Force Aid Society: Provides Airmen and their families worldwide with emergency financial assistance, education assistance and various base-level community-enhancement programs.

- The Air Force Enlisted Village: Supports Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Florida and Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, Florida, near Eglin Air Force Base. The fund provides homes and financial assistance to retired enlisted members' widows and widowers who are 55 and older. It also supports Hawthorn House (in Shalimar) which provides assisted living for residents, including 24-hour nursing care.

- The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation: Donations support independent and assisted living needs for retired officers and their spouses, widows or widowers and family members. Communities are located in San Antonio.

- The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation: Provides rent and financial assistance to widows and widowers of officer and enlisted retirees in their homes and communities through financial grants of assistance.

For more information about the AFAP affiliated charitable organizations and for retiree contribution forms, visit www.afassistancefund.org.

Special Events



(Courtesy image)

Fly fishing event set for parents, children

The staff at Tomorrow's Hunter Inc. is getting ready for their fourth annual fly fishing event in New Mexico. This guided fly fishing trip takes place on the San Juan River near Aztec, New Mexico.

March 11 is the date for the all-day event that is open to two wounded veterans and/or widows and two children. The staff highly encourages amputees to apply for this trip as participants will be fishing out of a boat.

A guide, license, all gear and lunch is included in the trip. Not included is transportation to and from Aztec, New Mexico, and any lodging before or after the event.

For more information, contact Gino Attardi, the executive director of Tomorrow's Hunter Inc., at 505-360-3336 or visit <http://www.youthoutdoors.org>.

The Air Force Wounded Warrior program offers several social media outlets for people to learn more about the program and communicate with each other. Just click on an icon:



Do you need to update your contact information?

NOTE - Updates should be provided to: AFW2 Program Office, AFPC Disabilities Branch, DEERS, DFAS, and the VA.

AFW2 Program Office – Call **800-581-9437** or via email: wounded.warrior@us.af.mil

AFPC Disabilities Branch for people on the Temporary Disability Retired List – Email disability@us.af.mil

Based on the last four digits of your Social Security number, call:

(0001-2499) **210-565-5561** (2500-4999) **210-565-5564** (5000-7499) **210-565-5562** (7500-9999) **210-565-5660**

DEERS – Updating info in DEERS is accomplished in one of three ways:

Call **800-538-9552**

Visit a military base ID card issuance facility

Visit the website at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/faces/index.jspx?>

DFAS – Online at “myPay” website: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

VA – Call **800-827-1000** or visit www.va.gov for the nearest VA office

